

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

1) Please insert after the Title on page 1 the following paragraph:

This application is a national stage filing of PCT International Application No. PCT/EP/2004/008656 filed July 7, 2004, entitled "A FIRE RETARDANT COATING COMPOSITION" and now published with the International Publication No. WO 2005/019356. This application also claims the right of priority under 35 U.S.C. §119(a) to Great Britain Patent Applications No. 0319781.1, filed August 22, 2003 and 0324735.0, filed October 23, 2003. The disclosure of all of these applications is hereby incorporated in their entirety by reference.

In the specification please substitute the following paragraphs for the same paragraphs appearing on the indicated pages in order to correct typographical errors. No new matter has been added in making these corrections.

For the first full paragraph on page 2, please substitute the following paragraph:

In order to make objective comparisons, a system of certification by national bodies has been set up. Such certifying bodies have developed various testing protocols to assess the effectiveness of the fire retardant coatings. These vary in severity by specifying different substrates, for example flammable versus non-flammable and whether or not the substrate is overcoated with previous dried layers of flammable paint. An example of the more severe test is BS 476 titled Fire Tests on Building Materials and Structures part 7, which describes the method of test to determine the classification of the surface spread of flames for products and which is herein incorporated by reference. The test method is available [form] from the British Standards Institute in London and reference libraries.

For the last paragraph on page 10, please substitute the following paragraph:

Preferably the coating composition is waterborne as this reduces the amount of organic solvent released to the atmosphere during drying of the applied coating. Such solvents in the atmosphere are considered hazardous to the environment and in many cases the users of the paint dislike the odour they produce. By waterborne is meant that at least 50% by weight of the volatile material or the carrier liquid of the coating composition is water. More preferably the organic solvent level is from 0.1 to 30% and even [ore] more preferably from 0.5 to 10% by weight of the total paint composition. Most preferably the coating composition is substantially free of organic solvent. Preferably, where organic solvents are used, for example to improve substrate wetting or dispersion of the particulate matter, water compatible or water-soluble solvents are used. Examples of such suitable solvents include propylene glycol, benzyl alcohol, ester alcohols such as Texanol and paraffinic solvents such as Exxsol D40 and white spirit.